

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for obtaining pulse wave velocity related information that is related to a velocity at which a pulse wave propagates in a living subject, the apparatus comprising:

a first cuff which is adapted to be worn on a first portion of the subject, and detects a first pulse wave from the first portion;

a second cuff which is adapted to be worn on a second portion of the subject that is distant from the first portion, and detects a second pulse wave from the second portion;

a cuff pressure changing means for changing respective pressing pressures of the first and second cuffs, while keeping the respective pressing pressures of the first and second cuffs equal to each other; and

a pulse wave velocity related information obtaining means for obtaining the pulse wave velocity related information based on a time difference between respective prescribed points on the first and second pulse waves respectively detected by the first and second cuffs when the respective pressing pressures of the first and second cuffs are changed by the cuff pressure changing means such that the respective pressing pressures of the first and second cuffs are kept equal to each other.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the pulse wave velocity related information obtaining means obtains the pulse wave velocity related information based on the first and second pulse waves respectively detected by the first and second cuffs when the respective pressing pressures of the first and second cuffs are equal to a blood pressure of the first portion of the subject.

3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the pulse wave velocity related information obtaining means obtains the pulse wave velocity related information based on the first and second pulse waves respectively detected by the first and second cuffs when the respective pressing pressures of the first and second cuffs are equal to a systolic blood pressure of the first portion of the subject.

4. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the

pulse wave velocity related information obtaining means obtains the pulse wave velocity related information based on the first and second pulse waves respectively detected by the first and second cuffs when the respective pressing pressures of the first and second cuffs are equal to a diastolic blood pressure of the first portion of the subject.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising at least one blood pressure measuring device which measures a blood pressure of at least one of the first and second portions of the subject, and includes at least one of the first and second cuffs.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising two blood pressure measuring devices which measure respective blood pressure of the first and second portions of the subject, and include the first and second cuffs, respectively.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the pulse wave velocity related information obtaining means obtains, as the pulse wave velocity related information, at least one of said time difference and said velocity.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a display device which displays the pulse wave velocity related information obtained by the pulse wave velocity related information obtaining means.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an input device which is operable for inputting a stature of the subject; and

means for determining, based on the stature of the subject inputted through the input device, a distance between the first and second portions of the subject,

wherein the pulse wave velocity related information obtaining means obtains, as the pulse wave velocity related information, said velocity by dividing said distance by said time difference.

10. An apparatus for obtaining pulse wave velocity related information that is related to a velocity at which a pulse wave propagates in a living subject, the apparatus comprising:

a first cuff which is adapted to be worn on a first portion of the subject, and detects a first pulse wave from the first portion;

a second cuff which is adapted to be worn on a second portion of the subject that is distant from the first portion, and detects a second pulse wave from the second portion;

a cuff pressure changing device which changes respective pressing pressures of the first and second cuffs, while keeping the respective pressing pressures of the first and second cuffs equal to each other; and

a pulse wave velocity related information obtaining device which obtains the pulse wave velocity related information based on a time difference between respective prescribed points on the first and second pulse waves respectively detected by the first and second cuffs when the respective pressing pressures of the first and second cuffs are changed by the cuff pressure changing means such that the respective pressing pressures of the first and second cuffs are kept equal to each other.